

Initial Statement of Reasons

SECTION 876. Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.

SPECIFIC PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSED REGULATIONS

Education Code Section 51452 requires the SBE to adopt a means and performance standards by which students may demonstrate mastery of the curriculum. The purposes of the proposed regulations are to specify the California Standards Tests and scores that students may use to demonstrate mastery of the curriculum in order to qualify for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma and to provide for a phase out of the use of Golden State Examination results to demonstrate such mastery.

NECESSITY/RATIONALE

The California Legislature eliminated the Golden State Examination Program, thus eliminating the Golden State Examinations (GSE) that had been used previously to demonstrate mastery of the curriculum and identify students eligible to receive the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. No statutory changes were made to the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma. The State Board of Education (SBE) and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction determined that students could demonstrate mastery of the curriculum using a combination of GSE results and California Standards Test (CST) scores. These regulations are proposed to provide:

- The CSTs that may be used to demonstrate mastery of the curriculum.
- The score required for each CST that is used for the diploma.

TECHNICAL, THEORETICAL, AND/OR EMPIRICAL STUDY, REPORTS, OR DOCUMENTS.

The SBE received a summary of comparative data from the California Department of Education (CDE) using CST and GSE scores to meet the requirements of *Education Code* sections 51450 through 51453. In November 2003, the SBE reviewed the following information and approved the CDE recommendation of Option 2:

The CDE staff analyzed GSE and CST data to identify CST scaled scores comparable to GSE results of recognition, honors, and high honors and identified the following three options:

1. Students must earn the advanced performance level on each CST used to qualify for the Diploma.
2. Students must earn a scaled score of 370 or above on each CST used to qualify for the Diploma.
3. Students must earn specific scaled scores that equate to the GSE performance levels of recognition, honors, and high honors for each CST used to qualify for the Diploma.

The scaled score of 370 or above (Option 2) comes reasonably close to duplicating the 2002 Diploma rates and provides district/school personnel with an easier process for identifying eligible students and verifying scores.

REASONABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS AND THE AGENCY’S REASONS FOR REJECTING THOSE ALTERNATIVES.

No other alternative is available for specifying tests that are “appropriately rigorous” as required by *Education Code* Section 51452. Regulations are needed to identify the subject matter examinations and the scaled scores on those examinations that students may use to qualify for the Golden State Seal Merit Diploma.

REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED REGULATORY ACTION THAT WOULD LESSEN ANY ADVERSE IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESS.

SBE has determined that the proposed regulations would have no adverse impact on small businesses.

EVIDENCE SUPPORT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT ON ANY BUSINESS.

The proposed regulations would not have a significant adverse economic impact on any business because they only apply to Local Educational Agencies and their subgrantees.